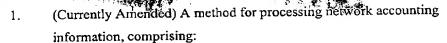
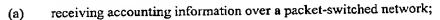
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## IN THE CLAIMS

## Amended claims follow:





- (b) monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and
- (c) after receiving the accounting information, discarding at least a portion of the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic, based on the monitored aspect;

wherein the portion of the accounting information is discarded to prevent an overload of subsequent processing.

- 2. (Cancelled)
- (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accounting information is discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.
- 4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, and further comprising generating a summary of the accounting information.
- (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes detecting a scan of a plurality of ports.
- 6. (Cancelled)
- 7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes monitoring a rate of receipt of the accounting information.

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- (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein monitoring the at least and the second of the s 8. one aspect of the received accounting information includes detecting whether where accounting information the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined âmount.
- (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least Automorphism (Original) 9. one aspect of the received accounting information includes monitoring a load on a system receiving the accounting information.
- (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network includes 10. the Internet.
- (Currently Amended) A computer program product for processing network 11. accounting information, comprising:
- (a) --- computer code for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
- (b) computer code for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and
- -computer code for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic and is expendable, based on the monitored aspect, after receiving the accounting information;

computer code for allowing at least a portion of remaining accounting information to pass to subsequent accounting processing, after receiving the accounting information;

wherein the portion of the accounting information is discarded to prevent an overload of the subsequent accounting processing.

- 12. (Cancelled)
- (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the 13. accounting information is discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.

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- (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 13, and further computer code for generating a summary of the accounting in the code information.
- (Cancelled)
- 16. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for monitoring a rate of receipt of the accounting information.
- 17. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount.
- 18. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for detecting a scan of a plurality of ports.
- 19. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for monitoring a load on a system receiving the accounting information.
- (Currently Amended) A system for processing network accounting information, comprising:
- (a) logic for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
- (b)—logic for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and

logic for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information that discarding a surge in network traffic and is expendable; based on the tring monitored aspect, after receiving the accounting information; to nitored spect after receiving the accounting information prior to passing to subsequent accounting processing, based on the monitored aspect, after in accounting processing, based on the monitored aspect, after in accounting processing, based on the monitored aspect, after in accounting processing to subsequent accounting processing the accounting processing to subsequent accounting to subsequent accounting the accounting processing to subsequent accounting the accounting to subsequent account

logic for allowing at least a portion of remaining accounting information to pass to the subsequent accounting processing, after receiving the accounting to the subsequent accounting processing, after receiving the accounting to the subsequent accounting the subsequent accounting to the subsequent accounting the subsequent accounting the subsequent accounting the subsequent accounting the s

wherein the portions of the accounting information are discarded and aggregated to prevent an overload of the subsequent accounting processing:

wherein the subsequent accounting processing includes operation and business support system processing.

- 21. (Cancelled)
- 22. (Cancelled)
- 23. (Currently Amended) A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:
- (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
- (b) detecting a scan of a plurality of ports;
- (c) detecting a scan of a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses;
- (d) detecting a rate of receipt of the accounting information;
- detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount;
- (f) detecting a load on a system receiving the accounting information;
- (g) conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on aspects detected during steps (b)-(f) by discarding at least a portion of the accounting information after the receipt thereof to prevent an overload of subsequent accounting processing; and
- (h) generating a summary of the accounting information;

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wherein the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic is discarded.

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